

ZIMBABWE - SEIDMAN REPORT
AND LEAF GROWERS CONFERENCE

Summary

1. Since the last Advisory Group meeting considerable activity on the Seidman report has been taking place.
2. INFOTAB have been providing advice and information to the T.I.C. in Zimbabwe which has been co-ordinating activities locally.
3. The current position is that the E.C.A. have been given responsibility for the global study on the tobacco commodity study although this only includes Thailand and Zimbabwe to date.

The study will be discussed, along with other commodity studies, at a U.N.C.T.C. seminar in early April for the interested parties from the U.N. and national governments.

The T.I.C. has informed the E.C.A. in Addis Ababa that it expects to have the right to reply to the study and N. Hauser has arranged that the "industry", individually or collectively will be able to put their point of view to the studies before they are officially circulated from U.N.C.T.C.

4. Current views in Zimbabwe indicate that the government may not send a representative to the seminar in New York on the grounds that the research was so poorly done that it does not offer the grounds for serious discussion.

Interestingly, Seidman has not yet presented officially a copy of the report to the Zimbabwe government. Until this is done, no discussion can begin.

5. When Seidman presents her report to the government the following developments are possible:
 - a) The government publicly rejects the study.
 - b) A government official may attend the U.N.C.T.C. seminar and would be fully briefed by T.I.C.
 - c) The government may take no action, in which T.I.C. could send a written response to the study to the E.C.A. in Addis Ababa.
6. N. Hauser's note on procedural matters relating to the U.N.C.T.C. and the commodity studies, has been circulated to INFOTAB members directly concerned with this study.

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Attachments

1. Copy of a press release issued during the Zimbabwe International Tobacco Growers' Conference.
2. Copy of the newly-constituted Zimbabwe Tobacco Industry Council's Charter.

3. March, 1983

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